Accessing MIPARS through the Internet

The MIPARS application can now be accessed through the Internet.   The State of Michigan standard browser is Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE) and the web application is designed to run in IE 5.5 or above. The MIPARS web application is not certified to run in any other internet browser and if you attempt to use another type of internet browser you may not be able to use all the new features built into the application.

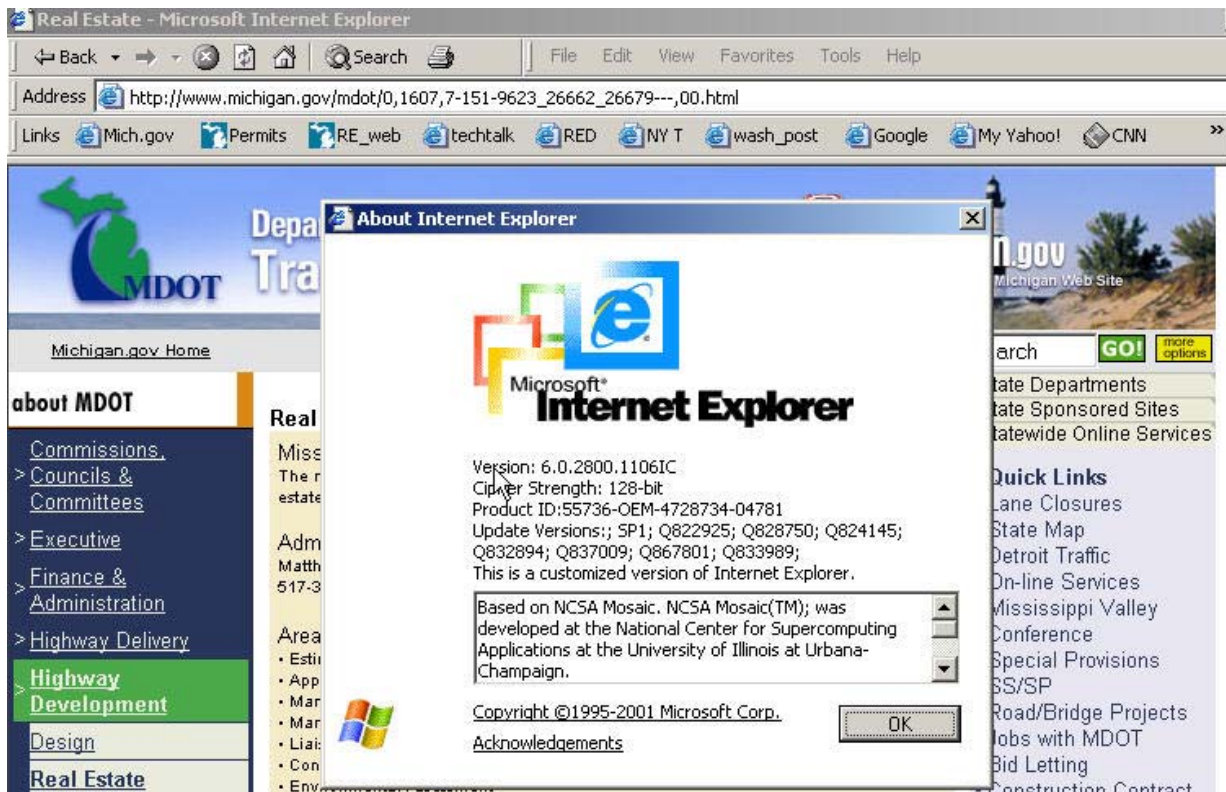## Do I have a new enough version of Internet Explorer?

Open your browser and go to the **Help** menu on the top of the window:

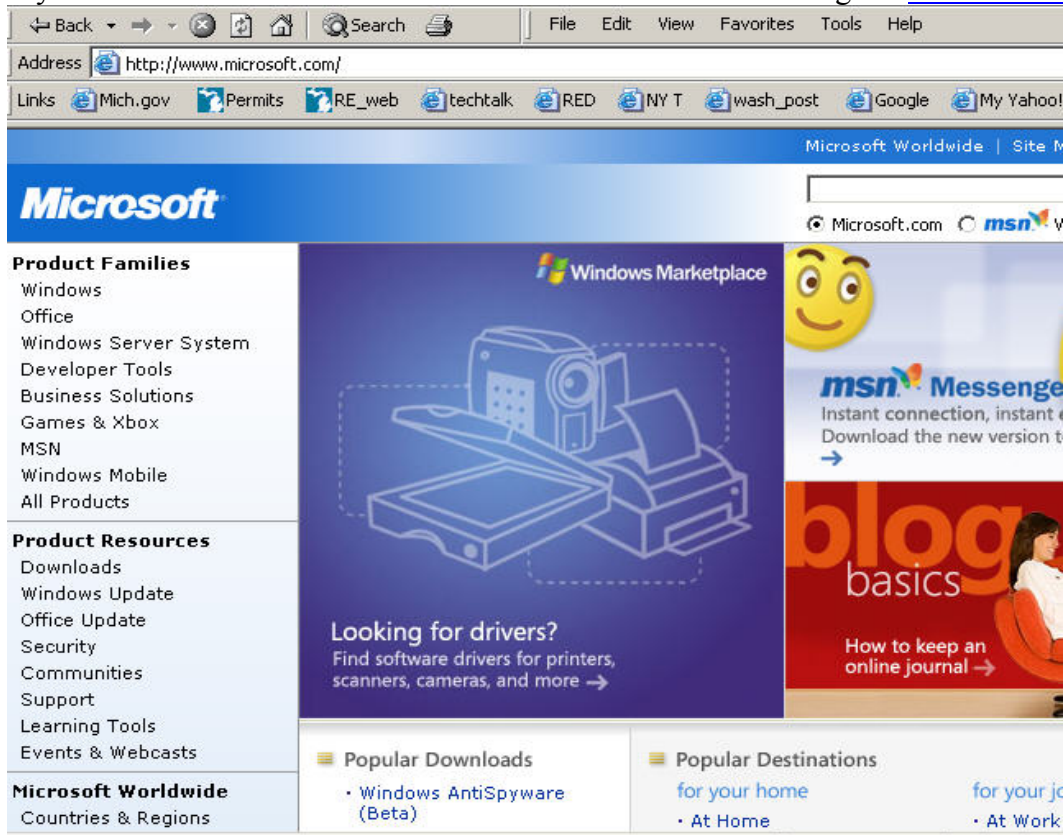Click open the Help menu and choose **About Internet explorer**:

Click on **About** and you will see this about box and the version number will be at the top of the information. (see below).
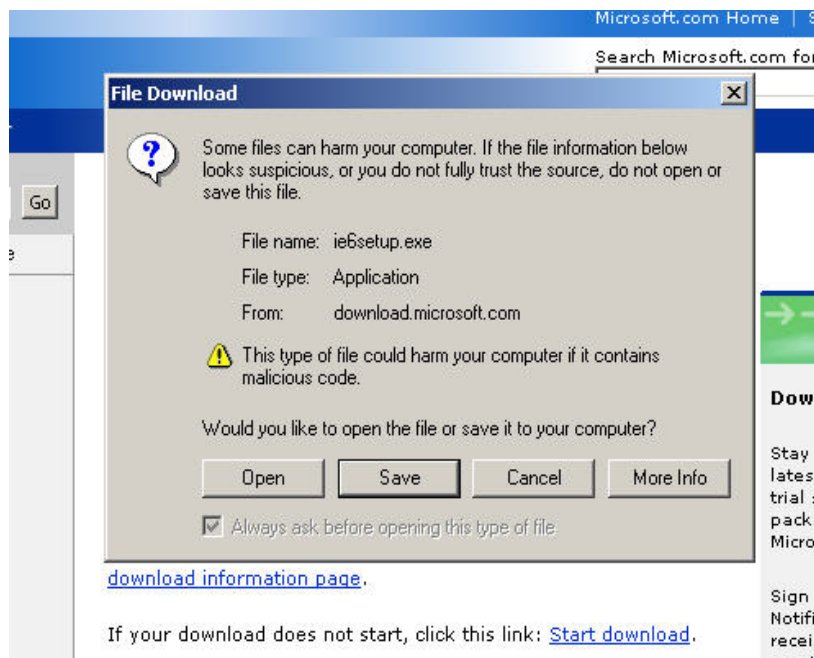
Don't have Microsoft IE?

If you do not have IE it is a free download from Microsoft. Just go to www.microsoft.com.
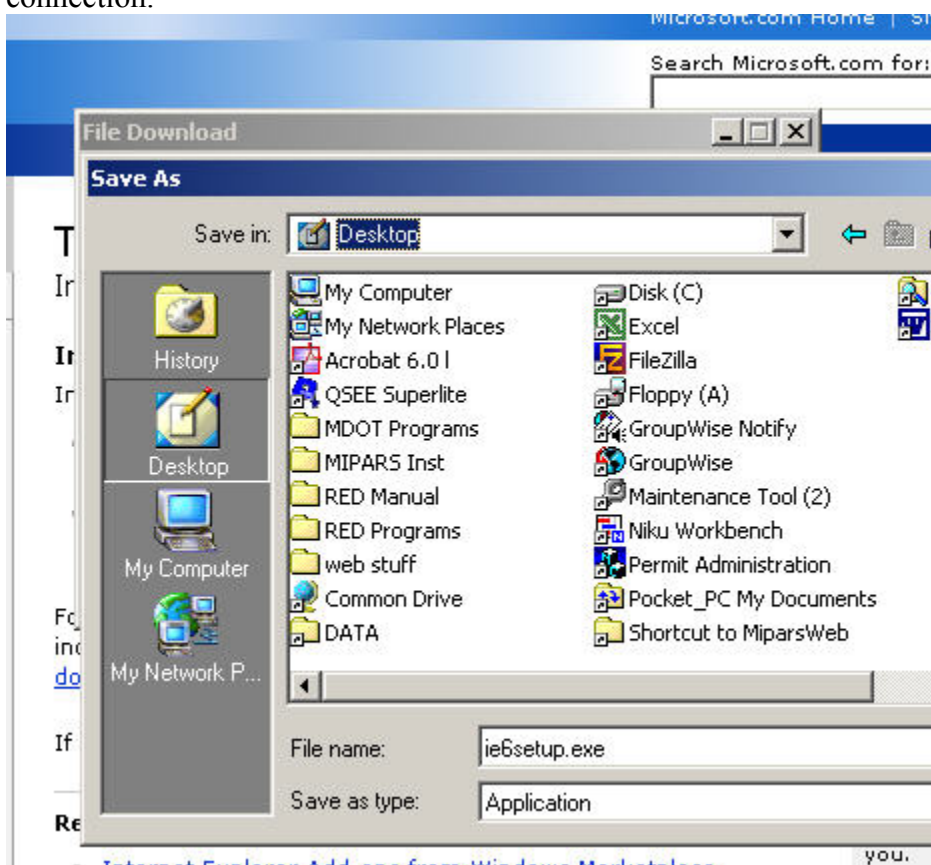

On the **left side** (See above) of the screen under **Product Resources click** on the **Downloads** choice. In the download section you will see item #3. Internet Explorer 6.

Click on that link and you will go to a page dedicated to IE 6 you might want to read the information on that page. On the right side of the page is a button to **download** the program. (see image below)

If you click the **Download** button you will be prompted to save the installation file. You should save it somewhere on your computer—your desktop would be handy. (see image below)

This file ie6setup.exe) is not large and should only take a few minutes even using a dial up connection.

The file you downloaded -- e6setup.exe --is only a guide for the transfer of files from Microsoft to your computer. To actually get the browser software you need to be connected to the net. Double click the file you downloaded-- **ie6setup.exe**. The setup will begin and it is a long one. Those of you using a high speed connection, DSL or cable, won't be impacted that much however if your company is using a dial up connection this download could take a long time- perhaps as much as an hour depending on the quality of your connection.
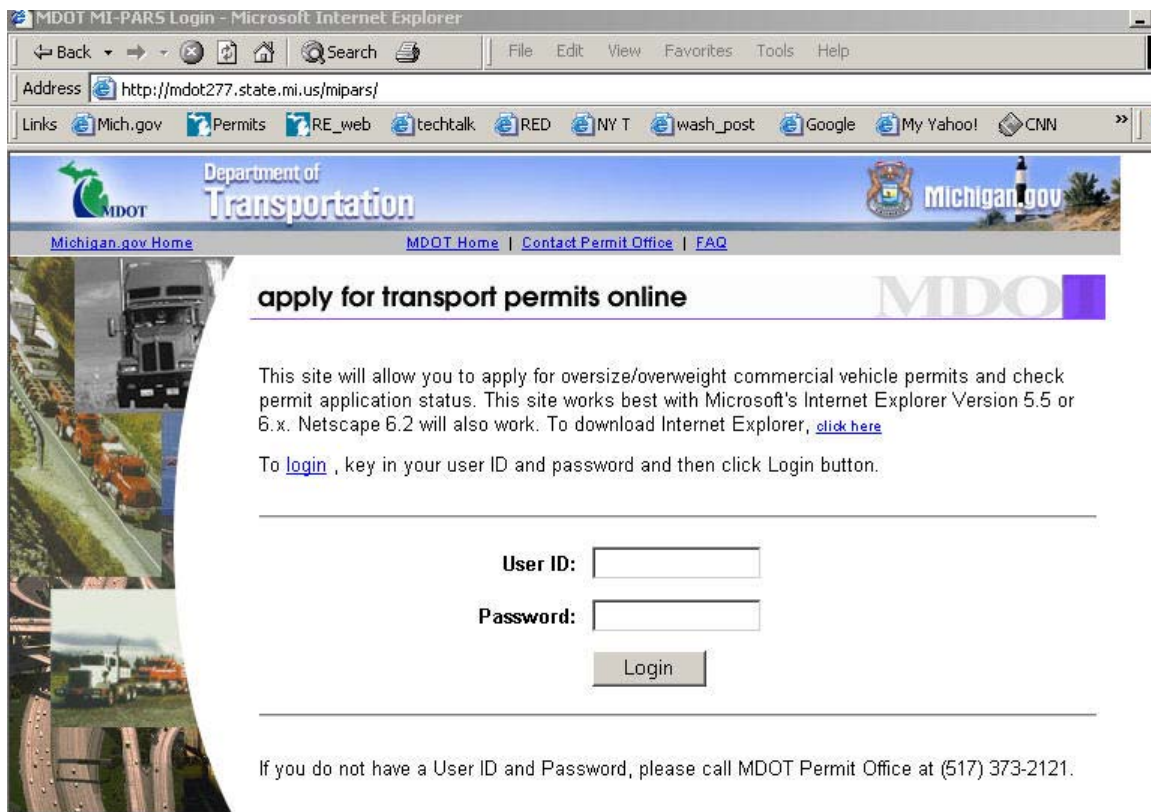
Microsoft controls its own install process and it is not legal for MDOT to send you a CD with the Microsoft IE install files on it.

Getting Started On the Internet

When the Internet browser is installed log on to the internet either by phone or broadband connection, DSL or cable. Once logged on start up your browser and go to the web site in the image below. Note the web address (URL) in the address box below:

   http://mdot277.state.mi.us/mipars/.

You will need to type this web address into your browser exactly to get to the MIPARS web application.

If you are already a MIPARS customer your User ID has not changed. If you are a new user the Permit Office should have provided a User ID when you opened your account.

Logging into the MIPARS web application requires the initial login password: pwd001. You will then be prompted to set your own password using the following policy:

Password Policy: Effective Monday, June 6, 2005, new password rules go into effect. This policy is meant to help MDOT better secure our servers from hacker attacks and to add another level of security for your company's data.

- As in previous releases the Permit Unit can ask for a reset of your password but we are not able to "see" passwords and cannot tell you what your present one is.
- Passwords will need to be at least 8 characters long but can be longer.
- At least one character of the password needs to be a numeral.
- Passwords will expire after ninety (90) days.
- You cannot reuse the same password but chadguy1 could become chadguy2 and comply with all the restriction.
- Password are case sensitive so ChadGuy1 is different than chadguy1

Password Examples:
chad	No, to short, only 4 characters must be at least 8
chaddguy	No, long enough- 8 characters, but no numeral
chadguy1	Yes, 8 characters one of which is a numeral
chad90210	Yes, at least 8 characters (9) and contains at least one numeral (5)

Once logged in you will see the web page below:

Many of the choices on the screen about should look fairly similar because they are options you have always had. It is out of the scope of this document to explain all the features. The Permit Unit will soon be sending you further directions on taking advantage of the new application.

I am sure all of you have read the install packet that went out with the last installation disk. The directions said to hold on to the disk because you would need Java to apply via the web. Unfortunately the Java files did not make it on to the install CD. The ramifications of that error are explained below.

Java is a plug-in used to view the restrictions map that the internet application is able to produce. A plug-in is usually a resource that is meant to enhance the power of the browser either provided by the browser's programmers or a third party. In this instance the Sun Microsystems created Java and the restrictions map and Java go hand in hand. So you are going to want to have it. If you do not have Java on your machine the first time you attempt to access the map your computer will detect that it is not installed and automatically go to www.sun.com and get the latest version available on their web site.

If you are using a dial up connection this will be a slow process because the Java program is very large. It won't take as long as getting IE did but it may take 40 - 45 minutes or so again depending on the quality of your connection. Unlike Microsoft, Sun Microsystems grants rights to organization like MDOT to distribute the Java software as needed. If you are dialing up feel

free to contact us and we will send you a copy of Java on a CD as quickly as possible. If download time isn't an issue or you don't want to wait for a disk then start up the map, let Java start downloading and then go have lunch.

If you are using a high speed connection, cable or DSL, downloading Java from Sun Microsystems won't take a significant longer time period than installing it from the CD so there won't be a delay waiting for a CD so please don't send a request unless it is absolutely necessary.

To request a Java CD send a fax containing the following information: Subject is Java Disk, your company name, mailing address and the person you would like the CD delivered to.

Sent it to:

Gary Rittenburg - fax (517) 373 4340

Or you can email the information to rittenburgg@michigan.gov. Please put Java CD in the subject line of your email message.

ANOTHER MAP ISSUE

The map that will be posted on the internet is actually generated from Microstation Cadd software. This creates a very large file and also time problems. Those of you using a high-speed connection will be able to view the map rather quickly – probably a minute or so. On the other hand as you may already have guessed, downloading large files through a modem and a phone line can take quite a while. The developer has attempted to make this file smaller but they see no way to reduce its size and so it will be several minutes before dial in customers will be able to view the map. Again the time issue is directly related to the quality of your connection and MDOT is not able to solve this problem for dial in users.

This concludes the information needed to start accessing the MIPARS web application.

OPERATING THE WEB VERSION OF MIPARS

The web version of MIPARS operates very similar to the version you have used in the past. However, there are some features that should significantly benefit both MDOT and an applicant user of the system. One of those features is demonstrated below. After you have input the route you desire to travel and before you submit the application for MDOT processing, click the "evaluate" button and the computer program will run some checks on your route that have previously been performed after your route has been submitted.

The slide below shows what you will see if the route you have chosen passes the evaluation. If the route you have chosen fails, you will see "fail" in the status screen. After you have performed the evaluation, you may click on the map function in order to see a map of the route you have selected. If the route passes, you will see the route in a mapped out version when you click on the map function. You may also click on the details button to see more specific information about the restrictions and/or reasons for your route failure. If the route fails, the specific location of the areas that do not pass will be highlighted.

NOTE: It is important for you to choose another route prior to submitting your application if the route fails.